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2009 Growing Season Review

The growing season began with below normal temperatures in early April resulting in fieldwork delays. Planting finally got under way after warmer temperatures and needed rains came towards the end of April. Moisture throughout the first half of May limited fieldwork, while cool temperatures slowed the growth of hay and emerging crops. June continued the cooler than normal trend, but warm temperatures and humidity finally arose in the second half of the month. This needed change in weather allowed large strides in crop development. The second-coldest July on record slowed corn maturity, and high winds and hail damage at the end of the month destroyed some crops. In southwest Wisconsin, several fields were declared a disaster due to hail damage and drought. August brought a little more warmth and humidity that allowed crop condition to improve. Fall harvest was troubled by cool and rainy conditions, the highlight of fall was the later than normal frost. A large snow storm and subzero temperatures in early December brought harvest to a standstill, with crops remaining in the field.

Corn

Wisconsin farmers planted 3.85 million acres to corn in 2009, a 50,000 acre increase from the previous year. Of those acres planted, 2.93 million were harvested for grain with a record yield of 153.0 bushels per acre. The previous record yield was set in 2005 at 148.0 bushels per acre. This year's corn crop produced 448 million bushels, a state record production level. Silage area harvested decreased 25,000 acres, dropping to 850,000 acres in 2009. Corn silage acres yielded 16.0 tons per acre for 2009, down 1.5 tons from last year and the same yield as 2007. Silage production was 13.6 million tons this season, down from 15.3 million tons in 2008.

Nationally, farmers planted 86.5 million acres to corn in 2009, a 500,000 acre decrease from 2008. Corn acres harvested for grain yielded a record 165.2 bushels per acre, up 11.3 bushels from the previous year. The previous national record yield was set in 2004 at 160.3 bushels per acre. Production at 13.2 billion bushels is the largest national production on record. The previous national record production was set in 2007 at 13.0 billion bushels. Corn acres harvested for silage yielded a record 19.3 tons per acre, up from the previous record yield of 18.7 tons per acre in 2008. U.S. silage production was 108 million tons in 2009, down from 112 million tons the previous year.

Soybeans

Soybean acres planted in Wisconsin increased 20,000 acres to 1.63 million acres in 2009. Area of soybeans harvested for beans was 1.62 million acres in 2009, up from 1.59 million acres the previous year. Statewide soybean yield was 40.0 bushels per acre, up 5.0 bushels from 2008. The 2009 soybean crop produced 64.8 million bushels, up 16 percent from the previous year.

U.S. soybean area planted rose 2 percent from 2008, to 77.5 million acres planted in 2009. Area of soybeans harvested as beans increased 2 percent to 76.4 million acres harvested. Yield was up 4.3 bushels per acre from the previous year, at 44.0 bushels per acre. Production is estimated at 3.36 billion bushels of soybeans in 2009, compared to 2.97 billion bushels in 2008.

Small Grains

In Wisconsin, area seeded to winter wheat in the fall of 2008 was 335,000 acres, a decrease of 15,000 from a year earlier. Statewide, farmers harvested 315,000 acres for grain, a 6 percent decrease from the previous year. Yield increased 2.0 bushels per acre from 2008 to reach 68.0 bushels per acre. The increase in yield helped offset the decrease in acres planted and harvested. As a result, production was 21.4 million bushels, a decrease of only 3 percent from the state record production set in 2008.

Nationally, winter wheat was planted to 43.3 million acres, down 6 percent. Area harvested for grain is estimated at 34.5 million acres, compared to 39.6 million acres in 2008. U.S. winter wheat yield was 44.2 bushels per acre, down 2.9 bushels from the previous year. Nationally, production decreased from 1.87 billion bushels in 2008 to 1.52 billion bushels in 2009. Wisconsin seeded 310,000 acres to oats in 2009, up 15 percent from 2008. Area harvested for grain was 195,000 acres, 5,000 acres more than a year ago. Yield increased 6.0 bushels per acre from the previous year to reach 68.0 bushels per acre. Overall production was 13.3 million bushels, a 13 percent increase from 2008.

U.S. acreage planted to oats was 3.40 million acres, up from the record low of 3.25 million acres in 2008. Area harvested for grain dropped from 1.40 million acres in 2008 to 1.38 million acres in 2009. Yield increased by 3.8 bushels to a record high of 67.5 bushels per acre in 2009. Nationally, oat production increased 4 percent to 93.1 million bushels.

Barley area seeded in Wisconsin rose 2,000 acres, to 45,000 acres in 2009. Acres harvested for grain was 25,000 in 2009,

compared to 30,000 in 2008. Barley yield increased 5.0 bushels from the previous year, reaching 59.0 bushels per acre. Wisconsin barley production was 1.48 million bushels in 2009.

Nationwide, barley was seeded to 3.57 million acres and harvested for grain on 3.11 million acres. The U.S. barley crop yielded 73.0 bushels per acre, a 9.4 bushel increase from 2008 and is the highest yield on record since estimates began in 1866. Barley production was 227 million bushels, down from 240 million bushels in 2008.

Other spring wheat seeded nationally decreased from 14.2 million acres in 2008 to 13.3 million acres in 2009. Area harvested for grain was 13.0 million acres in 2009, compared to 13.5 million acres in 2008. Yield increased 4.6 bushels nationally to 45.1 bushels per acre. Other spring wheat production increased from 548 million bushels in 2008 to 584 million bushels across the U.S. in 2009. In Wisconsin, estimates for other spring wheat were discontinued in 2009.

Hay

Wisconsin farmers harvested 1.55 million acres of alfalfa or alfalfa mixture dry hay in 2009, up 50,000 acres from 2008. Yield dropped from 2.70 tons per acre in 2008, to 2.50 tons per acre in 2009. Alfalfa and alfalfa mixture dry hay production was 3.88 million tons in 2009, down from 4.05 million tons a year earlier. Alfalfa haylage or greenchop was harvested from 1.40 million acres in Wisconsin during 2009, same as 2008. Yield (green weight) was 5.90 tons per acre, down from 6.70 tons per acre a year ago. Alfalfa haylage or greenchop production was 8.26 million tons statewide, down 12 percent from 2008.

Nationally, farmers harvested 21.2 million acres of alfalfa or alfalfa mixture dry hay in 2009, a slight increase from last year. Yield was up slightly from 3.33 tons per acre in 2008 to 3.35 tons per acre in 2009. U.S. alfalfa or alfalfa mixture dry hay production was 71.0 million tons, up from 70.2 a year ago. Nationwide alfalfa haylage or greenchop acreage harvested was 3.27 million acres, with Wisconsin accounting for 43 percent of harvested acres. U.S. alfalfa haylage or greenchop yield was 6.50 tons per acre in 2009 compared to 6.81 tons per acre in 2008. Nationwide alfalfa haylage or greenchop production reached 21.3 million tons in 2009, down 5 percent from last year.

All other hay harvested as dry hay accounted for 370,000 acres in Wisconsin during 2009, a 30,000 acre decline from 2008. Yield was 1.50 tons per acre, down from 1.90 tons per acre in 2008. Production of all other hay harvested as dry hay totaled 555,000 tons in 2009, compared to 760,000 tons a year ago. Nationally, 38.5 million acres of all other hay were harvested as dry hay, down from 39.1 last year. Nationwide, the all other hay dry hay crop yielded 1.98 tons per acre, virtually unchanged from 1.95 last year. All other hay dry hay production was 76.4 million tons in 2009, compared to 76.1 million tons last year.

Potatoes

Wisconsin farmers planted 63,500 acres of fall potatoes in 2009. Area harvested was 63,000 acres, up from the 62,000 acres harvested in 2008. Potatoes yielded a record 460 hundredweight (cwt.) per acre, compared to 415 a year earlier. Wisconsin's production was 29.0 million cwt., ranking them third in fall potato production behind Idaho and Washington.

Nationally, potato growers harvested 919,600 acres of fall potatoes in 2009, down slightly from last year. The fall potato yield for the U.S. was a record 428 cwt. per acre. Total fall potato production was 393.5 million cwt. Total production from all four seasons of potatoes (winter, spring, summer, fall) was 431.4 million cwt., up 4 percent from 2008.

Dry Edible Beans

Dry beans planted in Wisconsin during 2009 totaled 6,400 acres, a decrease of 100 acres from 2008. The number of acres harvested remained the same at 6,400 acres. State dry bean production in 2009 totaled 127,000 cwt. with a yield of 1,980 pounds per acre. Wisconsin produces mostly dark red kidney beans and placed second in the Nation for the production of those beans.

U.S. dry edible bean production is estimated at 25.4 million cwt. for 2009, 1 percent below 2008. Planted area is estimated at 1.54 million acres, up 3 percent from the previous year. Harvested area totaled 1.46 million acres which was 1 percent above last year. Average U.S. yield, at 1,733 pounds per acre, decreased 35 pounds from 2008.



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Mint

Wisconsin farmers harvested 3,400 acres of peppermint and 500 acres of spearmint in 2009. Peppermint yielded 54 pounds per acre and spearmint yielded 56 pounds per acre compared to 48 pounds per acre and 30 pounds per acre respectively in 2008. Peppermint production, at 184,000 pounds, was up 3 percent from the previous year, while spearmint production, at 28,000 pounds, was down 7 percent.

U.S. mint producers harvested 69,800 acres of peppermint and 20,500 acres of spearmint in 2009. Yields were 91 pounds per acre for peppermint and 132 pounds per acre for spearmint. Both crops showed higher production in 2009 compared to 2008. Peppermint production jumped from 5.50 million pounds in 2008 to 6.38 million pounds in 2009, while spearmint production increased from 2.40 million pounds to 2.70 million pounds.

CROP SUMMARY, 2008-2009

Crop	2008					2009				
	Planted	Harvested	Unit	Yield	Production (thousands)	Planted	Harvested	Unit	Yield	Production (thousands)
	(1,000 acres)					(1,000 acres)				
WISCONSIN										
Corn for grain	3,800	2,880	Bu.	137.0	394,560	3,850	2,930	Bu.	153.0	448,290
Corn for silage	-	875	Tons	17.5	15,313	-	850	Tons	16.0	13,600
Soybeans for beans	1,610	1,590	Bu.	35.0	55,650	1,630	1,620	Bu.	40.0	64,800
Forage, (all) 1/	-	2,900	Tons	3.3	9,674	-	2,800	Tons	3.1	8,730
Alfalfa forage, (all) 1/	-	2,450	Tons	3.6	8,687	-	2,350	Tons	3.4	7,958
Hay, all (dry only)	-	1,900	Tons	2.5	4,810	-	1,920	Tons	2.3	4,430
Alfalfa, (dry only)	-	1,500	Tons	2.7	4,050	-	1,550	Tons	2.5	3,875
All other, (dry only)	-	400	Tons	1.9	760	-	370	Tons	1.5	555
Oats	270	190	Bu.	62.0	11,780	310	195	Bu.	68.0	13,260
Barley	43	30	Bu.	54.0	1,620	45	25	Bu.	59.0	1,475
Winter wheat	350	335	Bu.	66.0	22,110	335	315	Bu.	68.0	21,420
Spring wheat 2/ 3/	23	22	Bu.	41.0	902	-	-	-	-	-
Potatoes (fall)	64	62	Cwt.	415.0	25,730	64	63	Cwt.	460.0	28,980
Dry edible beans 4/	7	6	Lbs.	2,130.0	136	6	6	Lbs.	1,980.0	127
Peppermint	-	4	Lbs.	48.0	178	-	3	Lbs.	54.0	184
Spearmint	-	1	Lbs.	30.0	30	-	1	Lbs.	56.0	28
UNITED STATES										
Corn for grain	85,982	78,570	Bu.	153.9	12,091,648	86,482	79,630	Bu.	165.2	13,151,062
Corn for silage	-	5,965	Tons	18.7	111,619	-	5,605	Tons	19.3	108,209
Soybeans for beans	75,718	74,681	Bu.	39.7	2,967,007	77,451	76,407	Bu.	44.0	3,361,028
Forage, (all) 1/	-	36,481	Tons	2.8	103,487	-	35,758	Tons	2.8	99,484
Alfalfa forage, (all) 1/	-	15,999	Tons	3.8	60,363	-	15,727	Tons	3.7	58,334
Hay, all (dry only)	-	60,152	Tons	2.4	146,270	-	59,755	Tons	2.5	147,442
Alfalfa, (dry only)	-	21,060	Tons	3.3	70,180	-	21,227	Tons	3.4	71,030
All other, (dry only)	-	39,092	Tons	2.0	76,090	-	38,528	Tons	2.0	76,412
Oats	3,247	1,400	Bu.	63.7	89,135	3,404	1,379	Bu.	67.5	93,081
Barley	4,246	3,779	Bu.	63.6	240,193	3,567	3,113	Bu.	73.0	227,323
Winter wheat	46,307	39,608	Bu.	47.1	1,867,333	43,311	34,485	Bu.	44.2	1,522,718
Spring wheat 2/	14,165	13,517	Bu.	40.5	548,004	13,268	12,955	Bu.	45.1	584,411
Potatoes (fall)	931	922	Cwt.	411.0	378,586	937	920	Cwt.	428.0	393,503
Dry edible beans 4/	1,495	1,445	Lbs.	1,768.0	25,558	1,538	1,463	Lbs.	1,733.0	25,360
Peppermint	-	60	Lbs.	92.0	5,499	-	70	Lbs.	91.0	6,379
Spearmint	-	20	Lbs.	118.0	2,399	-	21	Lbs.	132.0	2,698

1/Includes all acreage harvested for dry hay and/ or haylage and all production from those acres on a dry equivalent basis. 2/Spring wheat other than durum. 3/Discontinued in 2009. 4/Clean basis. Source: USDA, NASS, WI FO

U.S. and Wisconsin Corn and Soybean Stocks Up from 2008

Corn stocks in Wisconsin totaled 386 million bushels as of December 1, 2009, up 17 percent from a year earlier. On-farm stocks accounted for 285 million bushels, while off-farm stocks came in at 101 million bushels. Of the 331 million bushels in all positions in December 2008, 220 million bushels were stored on the farm, while 111 million bushels were stored off the farm.

Corn stocks for the U.S. in all positions totaled 10.9 billion bushels, up 9 percent from December 2008. Of the total stocks, 7.45 billion bushels were stored on farms, up 15 percent from a year earlier. Off-farm stocks, at 3.49 billion bushels, were down 3 percent from the previous year. The September - November 2009 indicated disappearance is 3.89 billion bushels, compared with 3.64 billion bushels during the same period a year earlier.

Wisconsin soybean stocks increased slightly from 42.7 million bushels in December 2008 to 43 million bushels as of December 1, 2009. On-farm and off-farm stocks were 15.5 million bushels and 27.5 million bushels, respectively, compared with the previous year's 17.5 million on-farm bushels and 25.2 million off-farm bushels.

U.S. soybeans stored in all positions totaled 2.34 billion bushels, up 3 percent from December 2008. On-farm stocks totaled 1.23 billion bushels, up 4 percent from the previous year. Off-farm stocks, at 1.11 billion bushels, were up 2 percent from 2008. Indicated disappearance for September - November 2009 totaled 1.16 billion bushels, up 30 percent from the same period a year earlier.

Nationally, oats stored in all positions totaled 110 million bushels on December 1, 2009, 4 percent below the stocks in December 2008. Of the total stocks on hand, 43.2 million bushels were stored on farms, 1 percent higher than a year earlier. Off-farm stocks totaled 67.3 million bushels, 7 percent below the previous year. Indicated disappearance during September - November 2009 is 17.9 million bushels.

U.S. wheat stored in all positions on December 1, 2009 totaled 1.77 billion bushels, up 24 percent from December 2008. On-farm stocks came in at 559 million bushels, up 23 percent from the previous year. Off-farm stocks, at 1.21 billion bushels, were up 25 percent from a year earlier. The September - November 2009 indicated disappearance is 444 million bushels, up 2 percent from the same period in 2008.

Barley stocks in the U.S. in all positions totaled 203 million bushels on December 1, 2009, up 18 percent from December 2008. On-farm stocks, at 115 million bushels, were 49 percent above a year earlier. Off-farm stocks totaled 88.5 million bushels, 8 percent below December 2008. During September - November 2009, indicated disappearance totaled 36.3 million bushels, 1 percent below the same period in the previous year.

Wisconsin on-farm storage capacity for 2009 remained steady at 350 million bushels, while off-farm storage capacity in Wisconsin increased from 269 million bushels in 2008 to 281 million bushels in 2009. The number of off-farm storage facilities in Wisconsin also increased from 340 in 2008 to 350 in 2009.

**GRAIN STOCKS: December 1, 2008-2009
(Total, All Positions) 1/**

Grain	Wisconsin		United States	
	2008	2009	2008	2009
	1,000 bushels			
Corn	330,590	386,280	10,072,106	10,933,676
Soybeans	42,669	42,960	2,275,432	2,336,680
Oats	2/	2/	114,922	110,462
Wheat	2/	2/	1,422,089	1,765,218
Barley	2/	2/	172,816	203,141

1/Includes both on- and off-farm stocks. 2/Minor states not published separately, but are included in U.S. total. Source: USDA, NASS, WI FO.

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